

Hamas and other Palestinian militants. His report accused both sides of committing war crimes and called on the Security Council to compel Israel and Hamas to conduct credible investigations.

Human rights advocates urged the United States to back Goldstone, saying it would show that the United States is willing to hold even its closest ally to account for abuses. But Rice rejected his recommendations, saying the "weight of the report is something like 85 percent oriented towards very specific and harsh condemnation and conclusions related to Israel. . . . In that regard it remains unbalanced, although obviously less so than it might have been."

TROUBLED ABOUT DARFUR

Jerry Fowler, executive director of the Save Darfur Coalition, said the administration's approach to Darfur has been troubling. In recent months, Obama's special envoy, retired Air Force Maj. Gen. J. Scott Gration, has pursued a more conciliatory approach toward Sudan, saying that genocide was no longer taking place in Darfur and that it was time to ease some sanctions.

"We have been pushing consistently for a balance of incentives and pressures, and so far we haven't really seen that balance," Fowler said. "Publicly, there has been more of an emphasis on incentives."

Rice said Gration's "vitally important" efforts to pursue a political settlement to crises in Sudan should not be interpreted to mean "that we are any less concerned" about Sudan's commission of atrocities "or that we are prepared to wield carrots in advance of concerted and very significant steps on the ground. That's not the policy of the United States."

SILENCE ON SRI LANKA?

The other major concern of human rights advocates monitoring developments at the United Nations is Sri Lanka.

When the government launched its final offensive this year against the country's Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), it was Mexico and Austria that first raised the alarm in the Security Council. France and Britain sent their foreign ministers to the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo, to press the government to show restraint.

The United States supported those efforts to draw attention to the crisis in the Security Council, which China and Russia opposed. It backed a compromise that allowed for discussion on the Sri Lanka conflict in the U.N. basement.

"The U.S. government remained relatively silent on the Sri Lankan crisis, especially in the early stages of the fighting," said Fabienne Hara, vice president for multilateral affairs at the International Crisis Group. Its response to Sri Lanka "did not seem to match the commitment to preventing mass human rights abuses stated during the presidential campaign," she said.

Rice challenged that assessment, saying "my perception is that we spoke out very forcefully." She said that the United States had a strong ambassador on the ground in Sri Lanka, conveying American concerns, and that the assistant secretary of state for refugees traveled there to conduct an assessment mission. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Rice said, had been personally focused on the issue.

"I think that is an instance where our stand was clear, consistent and principled," she said.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING KYRA TUCKER FOR WINNING THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Kyra Tucker showed hard work and dedication to the sport of softball; and

Whereas, Kyra Tucker was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Kyra Tucker always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the field; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Kyra Tucker on winning the Girls' Division IV State Softball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated during the 2008–2009 softball season.

HONORING ENVIRONMENTAL TECTONICS CORPORATION

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and to honor Environmental Tectonics Corporation on their 40th anniversary. Through innovation and determination, ETC continues to help our local economy grow and prosper, with new jobs, despite the tough economic times.

ETC has been a leader in simulation technologies, from creating entertaining simulation safari rides for amusement parks, to their state of the art aerospace training simulators. Their simulators have prepared civilian and military personnel for real life emergency situations, while keeping our heroes out of harm's way. They have saved countless lives by using the most technologically advanced training systems available anywhere in the world.

Starting with their partnership with United States Navy in 1971 creating rapid high-altitude decompression chambers and eventually evolving into the leading provider of aerospace simulation training, ETC is a world leader and today I am honored to recognize them on 40 years of exemplary work.

Madam Speaker, ETC has provided training to make the world a safer place and created jobs to spur the local economy. They are a welcome example of a civic minded corporation, dedicated to our national security. I highly value their commitment to our community, and I am proud to work with them as they develop cutting-edge technology to serve our nations best and brightest.

HONORING SCOTT HAMILTON

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in hon-

oring world recognized, figure skating star and cancer prevention activist, Scott Hamilton, as he receives the Excellence in Cancer Awareness Award from the Congressional Families Cancer Prevention Program today in Washington.

At the age of 13, Scott began training with former Olympic Gold Medal Winner, Pierre Brunet, and was only able to continue his training because an anonymous couple volunteered their financial sponsorship. By 1980, Scott was taking the ice skating world by storm.

Over the years, Scott has claimed over 70 titles to include: national and world skating champion, 1984 Olympic Gold Medalist, professional ice skater, Emmy nominee, best-selling author, actor, and television commentator. A member of the United States Olympic Hall of Fame and a member of the World Figure Skating Hall of Fame, he was the first solo male to receive the Jacques Favart Award from the International Skating Union, and also the first figure skater to ever be inducted into Madison Square Garden's Walk of Fame.

Scott has accomplished many notable achievements in his skating career, yet he has also overcome significant challenges. Scott courageously battled and survived testicular cancer in 1997, and he is successfully recovering from his 2004 diagnosis of a benign pituitary brain tumor.

Scott is the official spokesperson for Target House at St. Children Hospital in Memphis and is very involved in the Scott Hamilton C.A.R.E.S., Cancer Alliance for Research, Education and Survivorship, Initiative at the Cleveland Clinic Taussig Center. He promotes his informative and educational website, www.chemocare.com, and he also serves on the board of directors for the Special Olympics. In his leisure time, Scott can be found on the golf course or spending time with his wife and two sons, Aidan, age five, and Maxx, age one, at their home in Nashville.

Madam Speaker, Scott is a true testament to determination and the human spirit, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his life-time of achievements and notable contributions to cancer prevention.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING TIFFANY HERBERT FOR WINNING THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Tiffany Herbert showed hard work and dedication to the sport of softball; and

Whereas, Tiffany Herbert was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Tiffany Herbert always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the field; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Tiffany Herbert on winning the Girls' Division IV State Softball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated during the 2008–2009 softball season.